



WORLD ROWING ANNUAL BROCHURE

2017 FOCUS



151 Member Federations



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2017-18 World Rowing regatta season

2017 Calendar

May			
5-7	Belgrade	SRB	World Rowing Cup I
20-21	Krefeld	GER	European Rowing Junior Championships
26-28	Racice	CZE	European Rowing Championships
June			
16-18	Poznan	POL	World Rowing Cup II
July			
7-9	Lucerne	SUI	World Rowing Cup III
19-23	Plovdiv	BUL	World Rowing Under 23 Championships
26-27	Wroclaw	POL	World Games – Indoor Rowing
August			
2-6	Trakai	LTU	World Rowing Junior Championships
September			
2-3	Kruszwica	POL	European Rowing Under 23 Championships
6-10	Bled	SLO	World Rowing Masters Regatta
16-24	Liguria	ITA	World Rowing Tour
24-1 Oct	Sarasota-Bradenton	USA	World Rowing Championships
October			
13-15	Thonon	FRA	World Rowing Coastal Championships

2018 Calendar

March			
TBA	World-wide		World Rowing Indoor Sprints
15-15 April	World-wide		World Erg Challenge
May			
26-27	Gravelines	FRA	European Rowing Junior Championships
June			
1-3	Belgrade	SRB	World Rowing Cup I
22-24	Linz-Ottensheim	AUT	World Rowing Cup II
July			
13-15	Lucerne	SUI	World Rowing Cup III
25-29	Poznan	POL	World Rowing Under 23 Championships
August			
2-5	Strathclyde	GBR	European Championships – Rowing
8-12	Racice	CZE	World Rowing Junior Championships
September			
1-2	Brest	BLR	European Rowing Under 23 Championships
9-16	Plovdiv	POL	World Rowing Championships
26-30	Sarasota-Bradenton	USA	World Rowing Masters Regatta
October			
7-11	Buenos Aires	ARG	Youth Olympic Games
TBA	TBA		World Rowing Coastal Championships

For more event information: <http://www.worldrowing.com/events/>

FISA 125th Anniversary

This year marks the 125th anniversary of FISA, the World Rowing Federation.

FISA  **125**
1892 - 2017

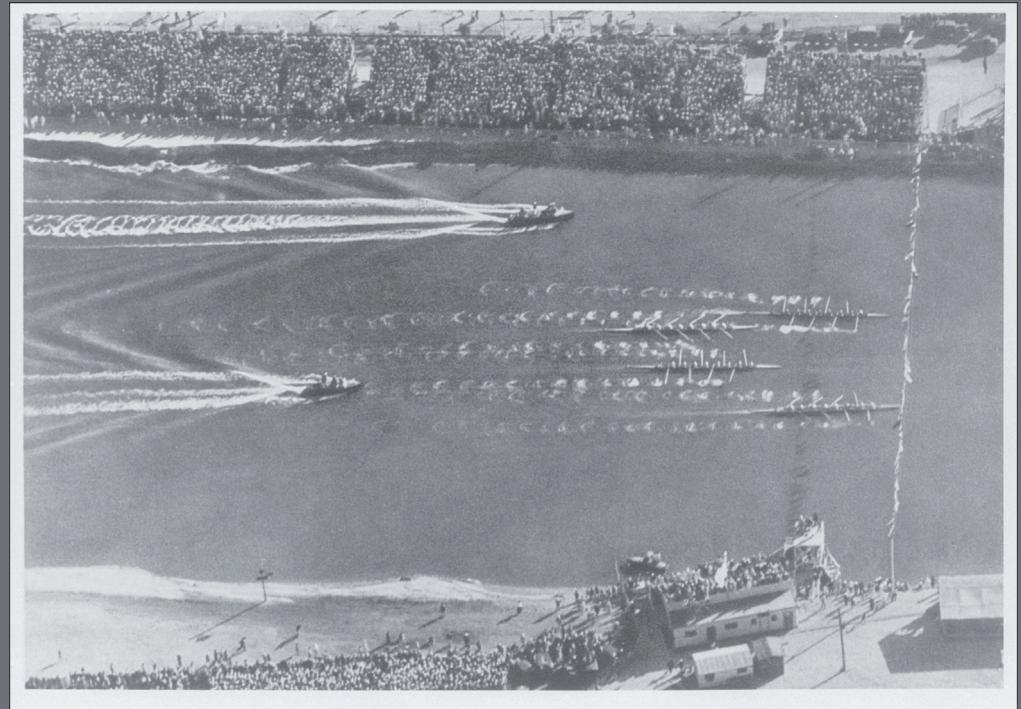
Originally known as Federation Internationale des Societies d'Avron, FISA was the first international sports federation. It was created in 1892, inspired by the growth of rowing that was occurring in the second half of the 19th century.

Led by the Belgian rowing federation, there was the conviction that a uniform set of rules were needed for the sport. At that stage the rules of racing varied from club to club, race distances and the type of racing varied, rowers could use any type of boat and betting was rife.

The first European Rowing Championships were staged in 1893 and rules regulating the sport of rowing began to be established. Now, 125 years later, rowing remains one of the most important Olympic sports with wide appeal. Rowing has transformed the lives of countless individuals from all five continents far transcending the sport itself. The words are true, 'Rowing is for life.'

What has FISA done?

- Worldwide growth of member nations from five to 151.
- Made 2000m the standard distance.
- A straight buoyed course is now the norm.
- Rowing equipment and boats follow a standard for all.
- International rowing events are held every year including the World Rowing Cup series and World Championships for seniors, under-23s and juniors. There is also the World Rowing Masters Regatta, World Rowing Coastal Championships and World Rowing Tour.
- Led the way in anti-doping measures with out-of-competition testing, no needles policy and Athlete commitment form.
- Put the athlete first and at the centre of every decision. This has included pre-competition health screening.
- Established a powerful set of values in the world of sport – teamwork, fairness, enduring, inclusive and natural.
- Integrated with para-rowing, masters, indoor, coastal and age-group rowing.
- Actively joined the movement for Clean Water and partnered with WWF.



© Comite International Olympique (CIO) 1932 Olympic Games

“As a federation we lead the way in anti-doping, gender equality and take pride in the absolute transparency of our organisation”

Jean-Christophe Rolland, FISA President, Olympic Champion rower, avid indoor rower and one of the youngest sports federation presidents.

© FISA Igor Meijer

Our planet depends on clean water

One of the greatest challenges of our time is to ensure there is enough clean water to support human life, nourish vital habitats and supply industry and agriculture. World Rowing believes that we all have a responsibility to apply environmentally-sustainable practices to our use and management of water. Rowing is a clean water sport and everyone involved in rowing has reason to protect this vital resource.

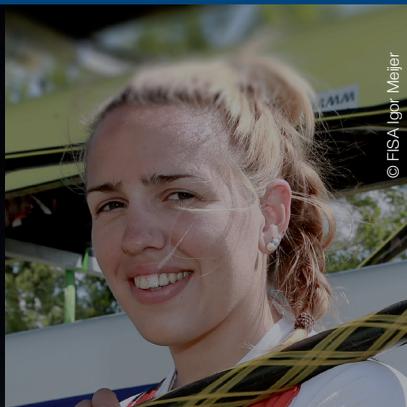
World Rowing and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) work together in a global clean water partnership. This engages all rowers, national federations and all rowing clubs to work towards safeguarding their own freshwater environment. A joint action project, the Kafue River & Rowing Centre is a manifestation of this partnership. This project was inspired by the confluence of so many pressures and problems in the Kafue River in Zambia and the need to bring all stakeholders together to discuss and help find solutions.

The development of a multi-purpose facility for water management education and research and the advancement of rowing in the region is underway. The global rowing community is at the forefront of a fundraising campaign for the Centre and a group of high-profile rowers are ambassadors for the cause. Because to help Kafue is to help the world.

Find out more: <http://www.worldrowing.com/environment/>



2017 Rowers to watch



© FISA Igor Meijer

LISA SCHMIDLA
Germany
Women's quadruple sculls



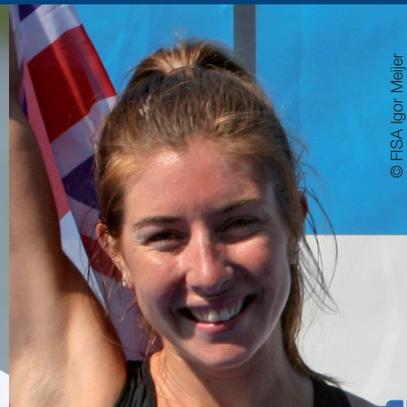
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LAWRENCE BRITTAIN
South Africa
Men's pair



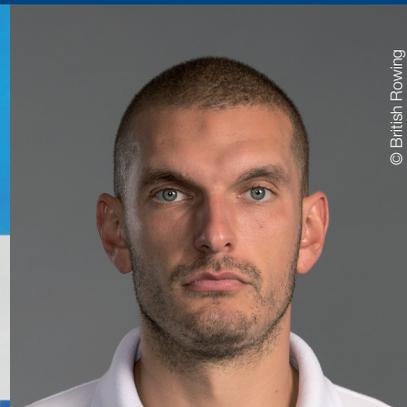
© FISA Igor Meijer

PIERRE HOUIN
France
Lightweight men's double sculls



© FISA Igor Meijer

ZOE MCBRIDE
New Zealand
Lightweight women's single sculls



© British Rowing

MOHAMED SBIHI
Great Britain
Men's four

Schmidla's racing record not only shows her versatility, but also her ability to win. She began rowing internationally in 2008 when she took bronze in the women's eight at the World Rowing Junior Championships. Schmidla went on to specialise in sculling events and became a junior World Champion in the single sculls the following year and then a three-time under-23 World Champion in the single, in the double and in the quad. Since 2014 she has been a mainstay of one of her nation's top boats – the women's quad – winning World Championship gold and silver on her way to becoming an Olympic Champion in Rio.

“ It's the hardest time to train when your body just says 'no'. But in these sessions, you make the steps you need to be a top rower.”

Born into a rowing family, Brittain is one of four brothers that have represented South African in rowing. Older brother Matthew was part of the first ever Olympic Champion crew for South Africa. Brittain's father also rowed internationally and his mother is the team doctor. At 19, Brittain became an under-23 World Champion in the men's pair and six years later he won silver at the Rio Olympics in that same boat class. His achievement is even more impressive when considering that he overcame cancer two years prior to his Olympic medal.

“ Things don't need to be perfect for us to perform and no matter what struggles we faced we pushed on and it showed with our results.”

At just 22 years old Pierre Houin had moved through the ranks of the French rowing team to win Olympic gold at the Rio Olympic Games. On his route to Rio, Houin made his way into France's top Olympic boat, the lightweight men's double with an impressive 2015 season. First he won the European title in the lightweight single sculls. Then he claimed two world titles: one in the lightweight single at the under-23 level and the other in the lightweight quadruple sculls at the senior level. He will be one of the top lightweight athletes to look out for in the lead up to Tokyo 2020

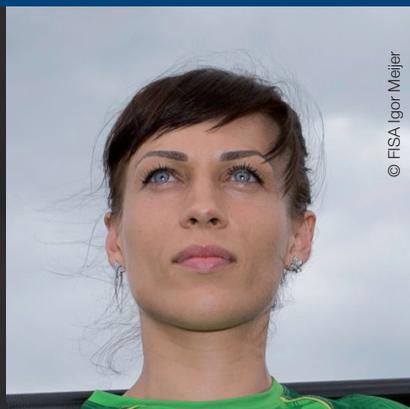
“ If you want to perform, you have to rule yourself with strong values. Rowing taught me tenacity and respect.”

Zoe McBride is rising quickly in the world of rowing. At 21 years old she has already collected an impressive series of international medals within just a few years. A two-time under-23 World Champion in the lightweight women's double sculls she has also won two world titles at senior level in the lightweight women's single sculls. McBride also owns the current World Best Time in this event. McBride will undoubtedly be a leading name in the field of lightweight female rowers on the road to Tokyo 2020.

“ I love the feeling when you get the boat moving fast and performing well at regattas. You know that you have personally put in all the miles hard work to get there.”

Rowing may not have been on Sbihi's mind when he was discovered through British Rowing's talent ID programme. Sbihi was 15 years old. It is now two Olympic Games later and two medals including gold in the men's four from the Rio Olympics. Sbihi is considered one of the best in his country's powerful men's sweep squad which has seen him move from rowing in the men's eight to rowing in the high priority men's four.

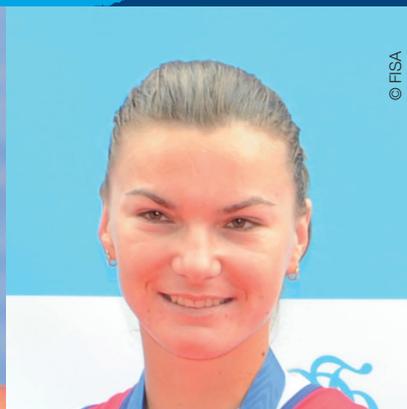
“ I still remember the day I got talent tested for rowing as it changed my life and enabled me to have an opportunity that I would never have had.”



© FISA Igor Meijer

DONATA VISTARTAITELithuania
Women's double sculls

Igor Meijer

DAMIR MARTINCroatia
Men's single sculls

© FISA

LAURA OPREARomania
Women's eight, Women's pair

© FISA Igor Meijer

**PAUL & GARY
O'DONOVAN**Ireland
Lightweight men's double sculls

© US Rowing

**LAUREN
SCHMETTERLING**

United States, Women's eight

Beginning her international career in the women's single sculls, Donata Vistartaite is a two-time under23 World Champion in this boat class. After her first Olympic participation in the single at London 2012, she partnered with Milda Valciukaite in the double in 2013 and together they took the World Championship title. The duo have remained at the head of the doubles field since then and at the Rio Olympic Games they were the bronze medallists.

“ In the team you always feel support of your partner, you can count on one another and it gives more motivation to push harder.”

Croatia's single sculler Damir Martin became famous in the world of rowing as part of his nation's men's quadruple sculls. In this event, he owns two World Championship titles – one of them, 2010, the first ever World Championship title in rowing for Croatia. He also owns an Olympic silver from the London Olympics. After the quad disassembled Martin, in 2015, switched to the single, challenging rowing's long-standing champions in this event. At the Olympic Games in Rio, he crossed the line in silver medal position, just fractions of a second behind Mahe Drysdale of New Zealand.

“ The Olympic final was my best race. I'm really proud of myself, how I focused and stayed in touch and managed to row the whole race within myself. I wasn't affected by Mahe even when he got ahead of me towards the end.”

Romanian women's rowing has always been a powerful force in the world of rowing and Laura Oprea is currently one of its leading lights. This has seen Oprea often compete in two boat classes at regattas. Oprea has been active internationally since 2010 and has won medals in a variety of boat classes, in both sweep and sculling events. She has recently focused on the women's pair and the women's eight and competed in both events at her first Olympic Games in Rio, winning bronze in the eight. At just 23 years of age, she has a promising rowing future awaiting her.

“ If you are the best nobody can stop you from winning.”

Immortalised by their post Rio Olympic interview, the O'Donovan brothers started rowing at a young age, plugging away until 2016 when they became Irish heroes by winning the first ever Olympic medal for their country in rowing. After an average season in 2015, the duo entered the Olympic season with a bang, which culminated in Olympic silver medal in Rio. After the Rio Olympics the younger Paul added another medal to his collection - World Championship gold in the lightweight single. Still in their early twenties, both are expected to remain top contenders this year and beyond.

“ Gary likes to think about the technique a lot. I am a bit more agricultural and bring a bit of physicality to the boat, so the two of us argue quite a bit during training and racing.”

If you look at Schmetterling's international race results, it is a string of firsts. She has been in the US women's eight from 2013 to 2016 and never lost a race in that boat. She helped the boat add three World Championship titles and an Olympic gold to the unmatched collection that they have been assembling since 2006. Schmetterling has also been seen doubling up in other boat classes besides the eight and will no doubt continue to do so in coming years.

“ For me it's about being the best athlete and teammate and pursuing excellence.”

2017 World Rowing Cup series

The World Rowing Cup is an annual series of three regattas that act as a lead-up to the World Rowing Championships. Racing at the World Rowing Cup includes the 14 Olympic boat classes and a selection of International boat classes. Para-rowing is contested at one World Rowing Cup per season.

Each Olympic boat class earns points based on the finishing order. At the end of each stage, the country with the most points is declared winner of that World Rowing Cup regatta and will receive the leading nation cup. The nation with the most points overall from all boat classes is declared overall winner of the annual World Rowing Cup series.

© Detlev Seyb/MyRowingPhoto.com

World Rowing Cup I Belgrade, Serbia

5-7 May

The Ada Ciganlija regatta course on Lake Sava in central Belgrade gets the 2017 season under way. Lake Sava has become a regular setting on the international rowing calendar and most recently hosted the European Rowing Championships. Lake Sava is a recreational area for the people of Belgrade and is especially popular in the summer for its beaches.

World Rowing Cup II Poznan, Poland

16-18 June

The Polish city of Poznan is central to many commercial and trade events and therefore used to welcoming international visitors. The picturesque market square full of bar and restaurant terraces is a great place to experience everyday Polish life. The Malta regatta course has hosted numerous international rowing events in the past ten years including stage three of the 2016 World Rowing Cup. Set in the midst of an active leisure centre, it is a favoured outdoor spot for locals year-round. Poznan will include para-rowing boat classes.

World Rowing Cup III Lucerne, Switzerland

7-9 July

The central Swiss city of Lucerne has hosted rowing regattas for over 150 years and was among the founding regattas of the World Rowing Cup series in the 1990s. Surrounded by rolling green hills and part of a nature reserve, the regatta course on the naturally formed Rotsee, is known as the 'Lake of the Gods' and considered to be one of the best regatta courses in the world. The World Cup always has one stage on the Rotsee, regularly being stage three.


**world
rowing cup**

European Rowing Championships

Racice, the Czech Republic

26-28 May

The European Rowing Championships were staged almost annually from 1893 to 1973. Reintroduced into the international rowing calendar in 2007, the championships have become an essential regatta in the calendar of European rowing nations. All 43 European member national federations plus Israel are eligible to compete. There are 17 boat classes (14 Olympic and three international)

The European Championships is being hosted by Racice for the first time. The Racice venue was built 30 years ago and is one of the training venues for Czech rowing teams. The buoyed regatta course has a roadway encircling it which is ideal for coaches to cycle along when following their crews. Most recently Racice hosted the 2015 European Rowing Junior Championships.



© FISA Igor Meijer

European Rowing Junior Championships

Krefeld, Germany
20-21 May

The European Rowing Junior Championships is in its seventh year, the European Rowing Junior Championships will be held on the Elfrather Lake regatta course in from 20-21 May. The regatta regularly attracts more than 30 nations with over 450 participants.



European Rowing Under 23 Championships

Kruszwica, Poland
2-3 September 2017

This is the inaugural year of the European Rowing Under 23 Championships and comes on the back of the success of the European Rowing Junior Championships. The regatta will take place on the natural lake of Goplo which has already hosted the European Rowing Junior Championships.



World Rowing Under 23 Championships

Plovdiv, Bulgaria

19-23 July

Under-23 racing showcases the up-and-coming rowers aged 23 and younger who are on the path to senior racing. The under-23 event has been going for more than four decades and in 2005 it was upgraded to a championship event. Racing covers 21 boat classes.

Plovdiv last hosted the under-23 championships in 2015 and the regatta returns to Bulgaria's second-largest city for 2017. One of the most ancient cities in the world, it is known for its picturesque beauty and numerous archaeological sites.



© FISA Igor Meijer

World Rowing Junior Championships

Trakai, LTU

2-6 August

Nothing beats the excitement and enthusiasm of the World Rowing Junior Championships. The thrill of the debut performance for many of these athletes on the international stage is enhanced by numerous family members who travel, sometimes thousands of miles, to see their loved ones compete.

To compete at the junior championships rowers must be 18 years of age or under. The majority of rowers are 18 as it often takes until their last year as a junior to be good enough for them to make their junior national team. There are 13 boat classes to contest - seven for men and six for women.



© FISA Igor Meijer



World Rowing Championships

Sarasota-Bradenton, United States

24 September – 1 October



The World Rowing Championships is the highlight of the international rowing season. Always at the end of the season, for 2017 it heads to the United States for the first time since 1994 when Indianapolis played host.

The regatta course at Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida is situated in Nathan Benderson Park which has gone from an area used for mining shells, to a 2180m long manmade lake, designed to FISA racing specifications and ready for these World Championships. The 600-acre park is designed as a multi-use sports venue with other water sports able to take advantage of the facility.

The course is close to Sarasota in Southwest Florida and one of the reasons it was built was to help make this area a hot spot for competitive rowing. The park also includes a television road as well as a cycle path that follows the race course and an event island.

More than 1000 athletes from over 70 nations compete at the World Championships racing in Olympic, International and para-rowing boat classes. Great Britain often leads the overall points table with New Zealand and Germany also regularly near the top of the table.

World Rowing Masters Regatta

Bled, Slovenia

6-10 September



The World Rowing Masters Regatta is a unique event. It sees former Olympic Champions racing with and against complete novices. It has rowers who have just discovered the sport taking on those with decades of experience. It regularly attracts around 3000 participants many of whom will compete in several boat classes including mixed club and mixed gender racing.

To make a regatta of this magnitude work, a new race starts every three to four minutes and goes for 1000m. There are no finals, only heats, with the winning boat in each heat receiving a medal. Rowers are divided by age groups starting at A (minimum age 27) and going through to K (minimum age 85).

The beautiful and popular natural regatta course on Slovenia's Lake Bled has rowers enjoying the natural environment complete with an island with a church that marks the closing metres of the race. Bled has hosted four World Rowing Championships, most recently in 2011.

In 2016 Copenhagen's Lake Bagsvaerd (Denmark) hosted the World Rowing Masters Regatta. Germany and Great Britain sent the most number of rowers. For 2017 a new trophy has been introduced, the World Rowing Masters Regatta Club Trophy. Two trophies will be awarded – one for men's events and one for women's events. They will be awarded to the club that has earned the most points in their respective categories at the regatta.



World Rowing Coastal Championships

Thonon, France
13-15 October

Coastal rowing is the extreme version, the adventure side of rowing. It incorporates the discipline of rowing with the fun and excitement of riding waves, surfing and buoy turns on open bodies of water. Participants in the sport actively seek rough, challenging water conditions. The boats used are designed to handle all sorts of conditions. The absence of lanes gives free reign to creative strategies and upfront duels. Unpredictability is welcomed.

The race distance can vary with the distance regularly being more than 3000m around a triangular course including buoy turns. There are six boat classes – three each for men and women: single scull (or ‘solo’), double sculls and coxed quadruple sculls.

The championships regularly attract competitors from around 20 nations with France one of the stronger coastal rowing nations. So it is apt that Thonon hosts the 2017 event. Situated near Geneva with racing taking place on the French side of Lake Geneva, this brings coastal rowing to a freshwater venue. Lake Geneva is known for changeable weather and water conditions and coastal rowers will appreciate the challenge this presents.

In 2016 the World Rowing Coastal Championships were held in Monaco and attracted a record 700 athletes from 30 nations. The 4000m course included four turns.

Filippi Spirit Award

The Filippi Spirit Award encapsulates rowing's core values – teamwork, fairness, natural, inclusive and enduring – and recognises the achievements of our next generation of rowers. It is open to university rowers worldwide and awarded to the rower that best demonstrates the core values of rowing in his/her social, academic and sporting life.

This is the fifth year of the award with Filippi Boats the main sponsor since 2016.



Filippi has been involved in the award since its inception with the winner's university rowing club receiving a custom-built, top-of-the-range Filippi eight racing shell. The boat recognises the winner's involvement in the club and helps the club to develop more young rowers in the future.

A call for nominations for the 2017 Filippi Spirit Award will open in September 2017 and go through to the start of November. To qualify, the applicants must have attended university in the 2017 year.

Filippi Lido S.R.L. (also known as Filippi Boats) is a rowing racing boat manufacturer based in Donorotico, Italy. Since 1980 Filippi has produced top Olympic-class rowing boats.

Previous winners:

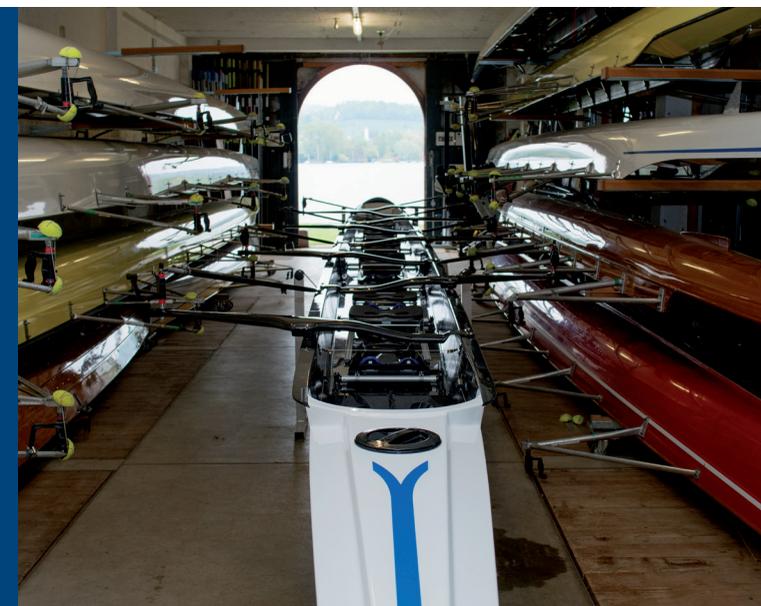
2016 Nils Jakob Hoff
Medical student at the University of Bergen, Norway and Olympic rower.

2015 Kirsten Van Fossen
American PhD student studying engineering at the University of Cambridge, GBR.

2014 Franz Gravenhourst
German national team rower and PhD student at Swiss Institute of Technology in Zurich, SUI.

2013 James Cook
British student-athlete studying mechanical engineering at the University College of London.

For more information go to worldrowing.com/athletes/filippi-spirit-award



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